

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 064104
ORIGIN PM-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-14 EUR-12 EA-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
SIG-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 SP-02
ACDA-12 IO-14 L-03 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-07 OES-07
SOE-02 DOE-11 SS-15 CEQ-01 HEW-06 /187 R

DRAFTED BY PM/ISO:JEBURGESS:NAVY:J.DRAIN:ML
APPROVED BY PM/ISO:GTCHURCHILL
NEA/RA - COL. W. GROSS
RA/RPP - COL. S. QUIGG
AF/I - COL. W. CARROLL
A/RA - M. EILAND
EUR/RPM - COL. W. ROBINSON
SD/ISA - J. WOODS

-----098986 141734Z /45

R 132259Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMCONSUL HAMILTON
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MANILA
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 064104

AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
CNO WASHDC
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
CINCLANTFLT
CINCPACFLT
CINCSUSNAVEUR LONDON

UNCLAS STATE 064104

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCLR, MNUC, US

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 064104

SUBJECT: ALLEGATIONS OF INCREASED CANCER INCIDENCE DUE TO
LOW LEVEL RADIATION EXPOSURE

1. A BOSTON NEWSPAPER HAS RECENTLY PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE CITING STUDY THEY CONDUCTED WHICH PURPORTEDLY SHOWED INCREASED INCIDENCE OF CANCER AMONG SHIPYARD EMPLOYEES WORKING ON U.S. NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIPS. ARTICLE ALSO RESULTED IN CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON THIS MATTER WITH RESULTING NATIONAL NEWS COVERAGE. NAVY DEPARTMENT HAS RESPONDED TO BOSTON NEWSPAPER'S CLAIMS CITING VERY SIMPLISTIC NATURE OF THE NEWSPAPER'S SURVEY, THE RESULTS OF WHICH ARE NOT SUBSTANTIATED BY INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE NAVY. ISSUE RAISED IS NOT THAT NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIPS ARE UNSAFE, OR THAT EMBARKED CREWS ARE AT RISK FROM RADIATION ALLEGATION IS SOLELY THAT EXPOSURE OF SHIPYARD EMPLOYEES WORKING ON NUCLEAR EQUIPMENT TO LEVELS OF OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION THAT ARE BELOW LIMITS CURRENTLY RECOGNIZED AS SAFE WORLD WIDE MAY RESULT IN INCREASED POSSIBILITY OF CANCER. THESE LIMITS ARE BASED ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EXPERT ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED BY A NUMBER OF PREVIOUS EPIDEMIOLOGIC STUDIES. IN ADDITION, NAVY HAS IN EFFECT A VERY STRICT

PROGRAM TO CONTROL WORKER EXPOSURE AT SHIPYARDS TO LEVELS
BELOW THE FEDERAL LIMITS.

2. TO PROVIDE A DEFINITIVE EVALUATION OF THE ALLEGATIONS,
A DECISION HAS BEEN MADE TO CONDUCT AN EPIDEMIOLOGIC
STUDY, BY AN INDEPENDENT ORGANIZATION, OF SHIPYARD WORKERS
ENGAGED IN SUCH NUCLEAR SHIP WORK. A PARALLEL STUDY WILL
ALSO BE MADE BY THE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL UNDER THE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE. RESULTS,
HOWEVER, WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR SOME TIME.

3. ABOVE PROVIDED FOR BACKGROUND IN THAT ISSUE MAY BE
VIEWED ABROAD AS REFLECTING ON NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIP
PORT ENTRY. SHOULD POSTS RECEIVE INQUIRIES REGARDING
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 064104

THIS MATTER YOU SHOULD REQUEST FURTHER GUIDANCE FROM
DEPARTMENT. VANCE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, HEALTH, CANCER, ALLEGATIONS, NUCLEAR HAZARDS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE064104
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JEBURGESS:NAVY:J.DRAIN:ML
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780113-0628
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780374/aaaackyj.tel
Line Count: 138
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0b3d74c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN PM
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3349473
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALLEGATIONS OF INCREASED CANCER INCIDENCE DUE TO LOW LEVEL RADIATION EXPOSURE
TAGS: OCLR, MNUC, TBIO, US, TU
To: ANKARA ATHENS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0b3d74c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014